

Snowmobile Program

FY 2012

Grant Application Guidelines

Important Highlights

- Completed applications (2 copies) must be mailed to the FWP Headquarters Office.
Grant Application Deadline: June 1, 2011.
- Completed, dated, and signed environmental packages (2 copies) must be included into the application (1 copy in each application).
- Suggested Time Lines:
 - Application Materials (including Wildlife and Fisheries Review Forms) to Biologists: March 1, 2011

If you have questions or concerns regarding any aspect of your application, please don't hesitate to call Jason White (406-444-7317), Trails Grant Coordinator, for advice.

Introduction

This program is administered by Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP). Each year, almost 4,000 miles of snowmobile trails across the state are groomed under a unique partnership between the State of Montana and about two dozen local snowmobile clubs. This program requires a coordinated team effort involving Regional FWP Staff, Helena FWP Staff, the Snowmobile Advisory Committee, and the Montana Snowmobile Association. Each spring, snowmobile clubs submit grant applications in order to become eligible for grooming funds. Snowmobile grants are distributed through a peer-reviewed grant application process based on historic funding levels and other factors.

FWP administers the Montana Snowmobile Program with funds appropriated by the State Legislature. These funds are used to support snowmobile trail grooming, the purchase and repair of grooming-related equipment, safety education, public outreach, and law enforcement. Snowmobile Program funding derives from 15/28 of 1% of the Distributor's Gasoline License Tax, registration decal fees, dealer registration, and nonresident permit fees.

Typically, clubs submit grant applications for the same project each year. Most projects include snow grooming on trail systems long used by snowmobiles. In fact, most snowmobile trail systems are comprised of Forest roads open to motorized use during the summer. New clubs seeking to gain access to the Montana Snowmobile Program and grooming grants should

contact the nearest member of the Snowmobile Advisory Committee and the local FWP Regional Parks Manager to explore the possibilities of a new groomed trail system. Grooming on U.S. Forest lands can only take place with the cooperation and assistance of the U.S. Forest Service, the land managing agency. Requests for new trail systems likely would face years of study, scrutiny, public comment, and analysis before acceptance.

FWP Regional Offices: The following is a list of pertinent FWP contacts and regional administrative offices. If you have questions about the application process, please contact the nearest FWP office.

Helena Headquarters

Jason White
Trails Grant Coordinator
1420 East Sixth Avenue
Helena, MT 59620
444-7317

Region 2

Mike Hathaway
Regional Snowmobile Coordinator
3201 Spurgin Road
Missoula, MT 59804
542-5531

Region 1

Dave Bennetts
Regional Snowmobile Coordinator
490 North Meridian Avenue
Kalispell, MT 59901
751-4590

Chris Lorentz

Regional Snowmobile Coordinator
P.O. Box 61
Seeley Lake, MT 59868
677-6804

Region 3

Ray Heagney
Regional Snowmobile Coordinator
1400 South 19th
Bozeman, MT 59718
994-6934

Region 4

Colin Maas
Regional Snowmobile Coordinator
4600 Giant Springs Road
Great Falls, MT 59405
454-5857

Compliance

All projects seeking funding from the Montana Snowmobile Program must comply with existing federal, state and jurisdictional laws, regulations and ordinances. All projects, with the exception of brochures, portable exhibits, and displays must satisfy the Montana Environmental Policy Act (MEPA) and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Every applicant must submit a dated and signed environmental package, which consists of the Environmental Analysis, Wildlife Review Form, Fisheries Review Form, and Noxious Weed Report. Except for the Noxious Weed Report, this information must be submitted on official FWP forms, all of which can be found on the FWP grants Web site.

Note: Dated environmental packages are good for three years. If the proposed project is exactly the same as last year's or two year's ago (no variations whatsoever), the same dated

environmental package from those year's may be submitted within the applications to the FWP Trails Grant Coordinator in Helena.

Noxious Weed Report

The following two key points are recommended for the Noxious Weed Report section of the Grant Application.

1. Please discuss your Club's involvement regarding weed control and weed awareness on your trail system. This may include providing funding for the land owner or land managing agency to conduct weed control in the form of spraying, biological control methods, organizing weed pulls around trailheads, or other efforts to raise public awareness.
2. Please discuss what your Club has done in the past year to contribute to the control of noxious weeds in your riding area. How would you judge its effectiveness; how might the program be improved?

Application Limitations

An applicant may submit only one grant application per grant cycle. There is no maximum grant threshold; however, most grant requests are less than \$20,000.

Sponsor must provide all information requested, and submit 2 copies of the grant application with the environmental package by the June 1, 2010 application deadline.

Late or incomplete applications will not be considered for funding.

Supplemental materials will not be accepted after the June 1 deadline.